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Golden Jubilee Issue

The Organized Farmer

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

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Special Notice

This is the Golden Jubilee issue of The Organized Farmer. We suggest that you save it for future reference. These mementos of the past get more valuable as the years roll by.

Our next task will be the F.U.A. Jubilee Day which will be held early in November. Please be prepared to do your part.

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GENERAL SCIENCES

President's Report

Central office is unusually busy for this time of year. There are several reasons for this. Naturally, our much larger membership calls for service of various kinds to a lot of different individuals who have troubles of varying kinds.

The quota situation is the most prolific source of grief these days. Actually, the 8 bushel quota for 1954 crop was not all accommodated at some points even by August 31st. However, the Wheat Board has tried to meet the situation by holding the quota open. The next question will be the quota for the new crop.

In addition to quota troubles, farmers have a growing debt situation and a lot of miscellaneous difficulties, such as machinery which does not work properly, legal problems, etc. Even the odd case of P.F.A.A. for 1954 still keeps bobbing up.

Jubilee celebrations of all kinds are in the air these days. It is indeed a great event this celebration of 50 years of a new Province. A thing which will never occur again in this area. And we **have** made great progress. Those of us who have been here through these 50 years have seen it all. But I think that we hardly realize as we go along from day to day just how fast the old order is passing.

On the farm, mechanization has changed the picture so rapidly, that some of the older men on the land feel frustrated and out of place amid the new methods. The older, simpler life of the farm is gone. The new system has brought with it a load of new debt and the need for lots of cash to keep going. Gone are days when a farmer could carry on for long periods with a few dollars.

One startling change of the last 50 years has been in the proportion of people living on the land. In 1905, three quarters or more of our Alberta people were farmers. Now, less than half live on the land and the trend from farm to city is increasing. Taking it all around, if a person had visited this Alberta of ours in 1905 and again in 1955, he would see little resemblance in the scene of today.

Another Jubilee which we are celebrating this year is 50 years of farm organization on the prairies. Actually it is about 53 years since the Territorial Grain Growers Association was formed at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. That important event was commemorated at a ceremony in Indian Head on August 19th. There beside the Trans-Canada Highway a monument and plaque were unveiled to the pioneers of the first farm organization.

This was a historic occasion. A crowd of some 1500 assembled there to witness the cere-

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mony and listen to speeches by the Premier of Saskatchewan and representatives of Manitoba and Alberta. Unfortunately, the actual founders of the Territorial Grain Growers Association are all now dead. However, Mr. Charles Dunning, one of the men early associated with the farm movement, and later on, Premier of Saskatchewan, was on hand to recall the old days, in his address. One very inappropriate feature of the ceremonies was that no old-timer of the Territorial days was asked to speak for Alberta. This was the time above all when Alberta should have been represented by one whose experience goes back to the founding of the farm organizations. Several such men were available. No young man, however good, can take the place of the old timers on an occasion such as this.

This Jubilee Year is a time for stocktaking, to see just how far we have come in 50 years. Many of our farm people of today naturally have no conception of the conditions of 1905. It is important that they get the background against which our progress can be judged. The struggles of the farmers during the first decade of this country against the entrenched interests of the C.P.R. and the Grain Companies of that day, makes an enthralling story. This is well told in the book "Deep Furrows" written by Hopkins Moorhouse. It can be secured from most libraries. This book is a classic of the early days. It should be read by all farm people.

The F.U.A. has two special Jubilee projects this year. The first is the building of our new Headquarters. This is now well along and we hope to move in during early October. As soon as the move is completed, we shall hold a special reception to Union members and friends.

This Headquarters is of course costing a lot of money. By the time it is furnished, this will run to approximately \$80,000* or so. The latest figures of the building fund show some \$38,606.00. There is a big gap here which needs some quick action to close. Many locals and individuals have done their full part and even more. Others have not. This building is for the benefit of all. If you have not done your part, here is your chance. If you have done all that could be expected of you, try and do a little more. Remember, generosity builds character. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our second Jubilee year project is F.U.A. Jubilee Day, the new one-day drive which is scheduled for November.

It is very fitting I think, that in this Jubilee Year, we should go all out to get all Alberta farmers into the Union. Last year, we made a great step forward by raising our membership to 62,500. This year our object is to consolidate our gains and to raise the total much higher still. Much good work has been done through the Union in 1955. It is our purpose with your support, to accomplish still more in 1956. To organize Agriculture fully is a fitting project for farmers in Alberta's Jubilee Year.

Experiences With The Farm Movement

Winnifred Ross

I count it an honor to have been invited to contribute an article to the Jubilee issue of The Organized Farmer. Wondering what I should write about, I finally decided on a bit of personal history and a bit of organization history. Actually I do not rate the 50 years Alberta is celebrating as a province, although I have been more than 50 years in the west, having lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba and in Brandon in the early nineteen hundreds. I came to Edmonton in July of 1911 when only the piers of the high level bridge had been constructed and one wing of the present Parliament Buildings was in use. Strathcona, now South Edmonton, was the end of the steel for the C.P.R. and very vividly do I remember arriving with my husband at the C.P.R. depot on a hot July day, after evidently several days of rain; climbing into a coach drawn by horses, travelling over to Edmonton via the low level bridge through slitherly, slippery mud well up to the axles of the conveyance and wondering every moment if the horses would sink out of sight completely — a far cry from the completed high level bridge, the modern C.P.R. depot in Edmonton, or if you get off at old Strathcona, the paved streets, taxi service and fast busses of today. The old street car rattled down the long hill which we thought in the early days was a pretty handy way to travel — now a thing of the past.

I liked the city of Edmonton, very different from the city of Winnipeg; and the years went happily by until Aug. 1914, the beginning of World War I, and the sudden upheaval of all life's plans. My husband had always been associated with the army, so with hundreds of others was immediately on active service. We gave up our house in Edmonton and I was at my old home in Muskoka, Ontario. Then my husband was killed in action in 1917.

In the meantime two of my brothers had undertaken to look after a farm at Millet, Al-

berta and after the death of my husband I felt a strong urge to return to the West, so I joined my brothers at Millet. This farm, a raw homestead, half section, had been purchased at a tax sale by Capt. Pearson (now of Taylor and Pearson Broadcasting Co.). After the war under the Soldier Settlement Scheme of the day, I borrowed all the money I could and with my brothers purchased the farm and became a farmer. We have good times and bad times, merry times and sad times, but never once have I been sorry that I built my life around the land and the interests of agriculture. Perhaps it is because I have taken such an active interest in agriculture and farm organization that I have found farm life so satisfying.

I attended my first convention in 1919 and have missed only two conventions since that time. Amongst my treasures is a copy of the annual U.F.A. report of 1917, before my time but of particular interest because it starts out with who's who in the U.F.A. and gives a brief biography of the Executive and directors of the organization at that time — H. W. Wood, P. Baker, W. D. Trego, J. W. Leedy of Whitecourt, Rice Sheppard, P. P. Woodbridge who resigned as secretary at Central Office in 1918, Wm. Lowe of Crossfield, Chas. H. Harrison of Oyen, W. F. Bredin of Grande Prairie, T. O. King of Raymond, F. W. King of Sedgewick, Chas. N. Carroll of Leduc, H. E. Spencer of Edgerton, Mrs. Walter Parlby of Alix, Mrs. J. F. Ross of Duhamel, and Mrs. R. F. Barritt who was elected provincial secretary of the United Farm Women at the Edmonton Convention in 1914. Many have passed away but these names must ring a bell in the memory of many old timers. I pay particular tribute to the interest they aroused for me in the organization as I met them for the first time at my first convention.

Many other names can be added over the years. We should have at Central Office a com-

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Early Organization Among The Farmers In The Edmonton District - 1905

By George Bevington

At the turn of the century along about 1904, very little results were yet observable of the organization work that had already been done by some earnest souls to get an active organization going among the farmers in Alberta. The Territorial Grain Growers had started in Manitoba and were spreading westwards; and in Alberta there was a branch of the Society of Equity.

The farmer's problem in those days was the same as it is now — lack of adequate markets at fair prices. Around Edmonton the following prices were prevailing. Dressed beef, 3½ cents fore, and 4½ cents hind quarter; live hogs 2¾ to 3½ cents, butter 8 to 10 cents, eggs 8½ to 10 cents a dozen; chicken 6½ to 8 cents per lb. dressed; wheat 35c to 40 c; oats 15 to 18 cents a bushel and hay \$3 per ton.

Mr. Rice Sheppard was one of the early settlers. He was active in organization work and was elected president of the first local formed, Strathcona No. 1, of the Alberta Farmers Association, in 1905. Many miles were covered with ox-team and horses; and what would today be viewed as incredible hardship was endured by those early pioneers in their efforts to form a farmers' organization. The meeting at which the Farmers' Association was officially organized was held in a building at at the Y road, just east of the Sheppard farm. Some of the others whose names come to my mind as members of that first group are, Wm. Ball, who died a few years ago at the ripe age of 94, Geo. Long of Namao and Charlie Brunelle.

A preliminary meeting had previously been held in Edmonton, and a committee was appointed composed of Bill Ball and myself to call the meeting mentioned and advertise it. I was unable to be present at that meeting as I was freighting and could not get back in time; but the meeting made me an honorary member for the time being in recognition of my services. The Society of Equity was also in existence at that time and "Daddy" Owens was their active organizer. I acquired a farm at Winterburn and went there to live and next year in 1908, a local of the Farmers Association was formed there of which I became a member.

In 1909 the two organizations amalgamated and there the U.F.A. was formed. A strenuous all-night sitting was required to agree on a suitable and acceptable name. Both the Farmers Association and the Society of Equity wished to have the names of their organizations per-

petuated in the name of the new organization. Many suggestions were offered but none seemed acceptable. Just about daybreak when everyone was tired out, Rice Sheppard had an inspiration and came up with the suggestion — "The United Farmers of Alberta; our motto Equity". An agreement was quickly reached when the words "Farmers of Alberta" and "Equity" were both incorporated into the new name. And so the U.F.A. was born.

During those early years the whole attention of the organization was directed to two main objectives. Getting a larger membership and striving for improvements in marketing arrangements so as to get a fairer price for the farmers' products. While this was going on in Alberta, the farmers in Manitoba had also got busy and organized for a similar purpose. Their most important objective was an improved price for wheat and they had organized the Manitoba Wheat Growers. Shortly afterwards, the Saskatchewan farmers also organized the Saskatchewan Grain Growers. Their objective also was to find a more equitable system of grain marketing than had yet been obtained. Although thousands of their members became patrons of the Grain Growers Grain Company, which had been originally organized to be a co-operative but had developed into a limited liability company, they were not completely satisfied, although many improvements in the way of freight rates, storage and shipping facilities had been obtained partly through the efforts of their farmers' company. In this province the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company was formed in 1913, because the farmers recognized that their main problem was one of marketing — at a fair price, and they had not yet obtained it.

Strangely enough, although the farmers in all three provinces had made gigantic efforts to get storage, shipping and handling facilities through their own co-operative elevators in order to get control of their own product, yet only a very few could be got to recognize what an important part was played by "finance" in determining the final price of their product. This is as necessary to obtaining a satisfactory market for the product, as is the product itself. Consequently, although the farmers made herculean efforts to produce, haul, store, handle and ship their grain within their own co-operatives, they found when they came to finally dispose of it, there was another factor, which had greater power than any they possessed,

which set the price — and that was the factor of finance.

Those who realized this and crusaded for some change in the financial policy that would allow the wealth of generous agricultural production to be represented by a generous number of dollars in the farmers' pockets, were regarded as cranks; and this most important factor of all was continually relegated to a background position by those who were in a position of power in the farmers organizations; but who failed to see the relative importance of finance.

Then in 1914 we had World War I, and the Wheat Board was established. With the tremendous requirements for Canadian wheat and the opening up of the nation's purse strings whereby hundreds of millions of dollars were created by the banks to pay for the costs of the war, a goodly proportion of this extra money became available to buy wheat and the job of the Wheat Board was more one of keeping the price of wheat down, rather than efforts to obtain a reasonable price. Its stated objective at the time was to "give stability to the productive efforts of the farmers — so that they could produce more to meet war demands. The Board had no difficulty in finding a market for there was a strong demand, backed up by the National Treasury which always had the power and was then willing to find the money to "win the war".

So satisfactory were prices under this arrangement that many people thought that the solution had been found through having the wheat handled by a National Board; and they entirely overlooked the fact that it was the increased amount of money in circulation that made markets strong and prices high. Farmers asked for a continuation of the Wheat Board after the war. This was refused, which left them in the same position as they were before the war, but with an enormously increased volume of production — both actual and potential — and faced with a swiftly decreasing amount of money in circulation, as an end came to the inflationary methods of war-time financing.

For some years there had been a lot of talk for the development of co-operative marketing methods. The U.F.A. was getting powerful at this time. But when the Wheat Board was dissolved, the demand for some other method than that already tried as co-operative in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, was very much desired. Then came the idea to organize Pools. Aaron Sapiro had successfully organized the tobacco and citrus fruit growers in the United States, and this led to a strong demand to form a Wheat Pool along co-operative lines. The object of the Pool movement was to control

the volume of grain and then FEED the market in accordance with the demand. Once again the "officials" failed to recognize that the "demand" had to do "something more" than a real need. It had to be "effective", that is, it had to be backed up by buying power, or money.

In order to get control of the grain they had a contract sign-up to guarantee delivery of the full amount of each farmer's crop. The idea was to market throughout the full year and only deal in actual wheat — no "futures" speculation. They thought this action would prevent any wide fluctuation in prices. However, once again the financial factor proved our undoing. The stock-market crash in 1929 caused the withdrawal of bank loans and decreased the amount of money in circulation so that prices fell disastrously; and finally the Provincial Governments had to guarantee the Pool's obligations to the banks. In other words, it required the backing of the "peoples credit".

While a certain measure of success has been obtained for short periods, our experiences as producers and members of these organizations have proved to us that the solution has not yet been found; and our objective of a fair price for full production, has yet to be found. The quota method is unsatisfactory because it tends to prevent that full production which would mean prosperity and plenty for both producer and consumer; and also imposes the handicap of compelling farmers to provide storage for which they get no recompense, while at the same time their purchases have to be made on "credit", for which they have to pay in inconvenience and perhaps direct higher charges.

The marketing problem which the farmer movement has tried to cope with throughout all the years is still with us — unsolved. Handling facilities and volume control, valuable as they may have been to point up the problem, have failed to find an adequate market at a fair price. There is a **demand** which is not being filled — but it is not an effective demand because it does not possess sufficient acceptable purchasing power to offer a paying price to the producers. However, as Adam Smith said, "The sole aim and purpose of production, is consumption", consequently some means must be found whereby the enormous body of potential consumers can become effective consumers of those large surpluses which producers want to sell. I repeat, some means must be found to accomplish this. This is the problem for which farmers' organizations were formed 50 years ago, and this is the problem they are still facing.

I am convinced the remedy lies in the adapt-

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EARLY ORGANIZATION AMONG THE FARMERS IN THE EDMONTON

(Continued from Page 5)

ation of finance to serve the needs of consumption and production. It can be done by abandoning the debt creating methods of our financial system. All we have to do is to finance our consumption needs through the Bank of Canada — at a cost of service — and we shall find that the consuming public — not only of this country but of all the world — will always be able and willing to pay such a price for the goods they need, that the producers will be able to make a comfortable living.

Marketing Boards operated on the principle of bartering can be successful if financed by the exporting country as advocated in the F.A.O. report. Then it would not be compulsory for an importing country to pay for its imports in the currency of the exporting country, but with its own — or its goods. However, I have not the space to go into this but would refer my readers to Hansard of July 14, 1955, page 6139, where the report of the F.A.O. explains how this could be done, quote:

"(1) The exporting country would sell surplus wheat to the International Commodity Clearing House at full market price and the purchases would be financed by the exporter contributing the value of wheat to International Commodity Clearing House as additional capital. I.C.C.H. would then sell quantities of wheat to the importing country **in addition to and as a substitute for its usual purchases.** I.C.C.H. would take in payment the currency of the importing country, even if it were, at the time, inconvertible."

The machinery for making these "barter" arrangements is already set up. All that the farmers have to do is insist that proper use be made of it.

PARKING METER QUIZ

Q. What city in Canada has the most parking meters in operation?

A. Edmonton.

Q. What was the parking meter revenue in Edmonton in 1954?

A. Over \$200,000.

Q. How many tags were issued to motorists for overparking at meters in Edmonton in 1954?

A. 109,323.

Q. How much was paid on these tags last year, and how much was paid in penalties for not making payment in time?

A. \$54,651.50 on tags, \$23,388.75 in penalties.

Q. What is the average annual revenue per meter in America?

A. \$70.48.

—A. M. A.

How Alberta Became A Canadian Province

At the beginning of the Twentieth Century, Western Canada had lost enough of its frontier isolation to want to be considered something besides the North-West Territory. The westerners' Bill, known officially as the Alberta Act, was introduced in the Canadian Parliament.

This bill provided for the incorporation of Alberta with Edmonton being made the provisional capital. An initial grant of \$1,000,000 would be made, with an additional \$312,000 a year for the first five years to assist in the construction of provincial buildings. The bill, covering education, legal rights, government, and the many other details required for the operation of a new province, received third reading on July 5 and was approved by the Senate two weeks later.

When Calgary learned that Edmonton had been selected as the temporary capital until an official choice could be made, the outcry could be heard throughout the land. "The isolation of the provisional capital shows for itself. It shows Edmonton on the upper fringe of the province, the northern-most point of population. Could anything more be required to show the utter folly, the absolute unfairness of seeking such an out-of-the-way location for a capital?" stated the Calgary Herald in one of several indignant editorials.

Edmonton received the news of its election with joy and made immediate preparations for a celebration on September 1 — the official date of provincial autonomy.

When the big day arrived, more than 12,000 people crowded the streets to see the opening parade. "Never has the city gone so lavishly for decorations," commented the Edmonton Bulletin. "Magnificent arches spanned the streets, trimmed with evergreens, sheaves of grain and bunting. From every business house along Jasper Avenue and from public buildings, flags floated in the breeze and festoons of bunting swung from the windows of large blocks."

With this impressive background, the opening parade received wild acclaim. Starting from the Immigration Hall, the procession travelled through the downtown area to the fair grounds, near the present Renfrew Park. Governor-General Earl Grey inspected the squadrons of the North-West Mounted Police. "When the thin red line galloped up toward the grandstand," said the Bulletin, "they presented a magnificent battle picture, and as the guns galloped off

off the grounds and up the hill toward the Hudson's Bay fort to fire the salute, the sight was one not soon to be forgotten."

During this part of the program, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, arrived at the fair grounds. After completion of the manoeuvres, Lord Grey, Sir Wilfrid and other dignitaries paid their respects to the new province. At the same time, congratulations were read from King Edward VII, Prince Louis of Battenberg and Lord Strathcona.

George Bulyea, who had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the new Province, also took the occasion to proclaim A. C. Rutherford, M.L.A. from Strathcona, as the first premier and called upon him to form the executive council. The afternoon ended with baseball, polo, horse racing and lacrosse.

Into the night the new province celebrated, "Jasper Avenue was a scene of brilliance and animation," said the Bulletin. "From the buildings on either side hung rows of incandescent lights of red, white and blue interspersed. The new arc lights burned steadily and brightly and the arches were splendidly illuminated. Free light was granted all users and every residence was a blaze of light."

As a final note, a scholarly reporter made the following sage observation in the Bulletin: "The possibilities of Alberta are not half discovered yet. The true greatness of the province is comparatively unknown, but with her own provincial administration of affairs the promises for the future are bright indeed."

—From "Within our Borders"

FARM OPERATING COSTS

Goods and services used by Canadian farmers cost about 2½ times as much today as they did in the immediate prewar years. Farm wages are up nearly five times. Using an index of 100 as representing the average cost of goods and services during the 1935-39 period the bureau of statistics places costs in April 1955 as follows:

	Canada (1935-1939 equals 100)	Western Canada
Composite index, ex living costs	240.3	238.1
Equipment and materials	204.7	204.1
Taxes and interest rates	174.6	183.2
Farm wage rates	454.2	483.4
Family living costs	203.8	205.9
Farm machinery	198.1	199.3
Building materials	307.2	337.0
Gasoline, oil and grease	151.7	139.7
Feed	217.8	226.1
Binder twine	241.0	241.0
Seed	201.0	208.1
Hardware	199.8	207.1

—From "Wheat Pool Budget"

Open Forum

Letters for publication in the Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the name of the sender must accompany the letter. The Editor reserves the right to condense any letter to conform to space limitations. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Dear Sir:

There was a B.C. Fruit Growers Association meeting in Oliver Sept. 5th. One of the highlights was that an investigating committee was voted for and passed unanimously. Fruit growers are determined to find out where all the consumers' money is going and who is willing to help the consumer and producer get away from the repeated exploitation.

How many Farm Union locals or sub-districts or co-op stores or town communities would like to let me know whether they would like to save as much as \$2.00 to \$4.00 per bushel of fruit? There are instances in which growers get as little as 20c per bushel of apples—average—yet you in the prairies or in Vancouver are paying around \$5.00 to \$6.00 for the same boxes of apples.

We feel that a farmer should be able to buy from other farmers. How many F.U.A. locals, Co-ops or communities would like to order a railway carload of our fruit, such as MacIntosh Red, Delicious, etc., apples this fall from the Growers' Sales Agency? How many would want to make a further saving if they bought inspected orchard run fruit in open boxes instead of fruit that is wiped, graded, sized, wrapped and put in lidded, decorated boxes—a saving of \$1.00 a bushel?

The undersigned is anxious to see as many Farm Union Locals and members, Co-op Stores, etc., as possible write in their views, ideas, etc., in respect to buying B.C. tree fruit commodities, as it would strengthen the farmer's stand against further exploitation.

There are about 800 (packed) bushels in a carload. Railway cars can be stopped to unload in two adjacent stations at no extra cost.

ALF. T. BEICH,

Oliver, B.C.

Agriculturists at the Rust Research Laboratory, Winnipeg, are testing, a variety of wheat this year which is believed to be resistant to all known races of rust. Rust resistant qualities came from a variety of wheat, Kenya Farmer, brought from Kenya, East Africa, in 1948.

Since 1904 almost 255 million trees have been distributed from the two Dominion forest nursery stations in Saskatchewan. This is sufficient to make a line of trees stretching from Quebec City to Calgary if they were spaced 20 feet apart.

Farmers Union of Alberta

10128 - 98th Street

Edmonton, Alberta

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EDITORIALS

ALBERTA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

In this number of The Organized Farmer we seek to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Province of Alberta. It was of course on September 1, 1905 that Alberta became a Province.

In this issue we are featuring some special articles by old timers who have been connected with the farm movement during these 50 past years.

The Provincial Jubilee has been celebrated in various ways and in various places and with varying degrees of enthusiasm. As far as the Provincial celebration is concerned it did not seem to go over too well. A lack of good planning and real interest seemed to characterize it from the beginning. Also the unwanted election campaign did much to distract interest from it.

Today the pioneer of 1905 is a vanishing species. We cannot expect those who have never experienced the pioneer days to feel

the same keen interest in those far off days. Probably a better job could have been done provincially if the planning for the celebration had been in the hands of a group of old timers who were really interested in the project.

In comparison with the recorded history of man, 50 years is a very short period of time. Compared with the millions of years which scientists agree our earth has existed, fifty years is too short to measure at all.

However 50 years is a considerable part of the life-span of a man or woman. Those of us who have been here since before 1905 have had the opportunity of taking part in something that the younger people of today can never see. That is the development of a wilderness into an orderly and productive country. This was not of course all done by those here before 1905. Many others coming in later years helped with the job, but only those here before Alberta came into existence have experienced it all.

With the crude equipment of those early days, clearing and breaking the new land was a slow, tough job. Yet probably in no similar area in the world was so much progress made in a 50 year period as in the new Province of Alberta and Saskatchewan. As far as Alberta

is concerned the following simple figures tell a part of the story of 50 years progress.

Alberta	1905	1955
Population	73,000	1,040,000
Cultivated acreage	660,000 acres	22,945,000 acres

Many other figures could be produced showing progress measured in dollars etc. However the simple fact that the cultivated acreage of Alberta was increased to almost 35 times the 1905 total in just 50 years tells the story of agricultural development. To those of us who have been privileged to take part in this chapter of our history it has been a great experience.

It should not be forgotten that we have even more than 50 years of farm organization to celebrate. From the crude beginnings of the Territorial Grain Growers Association in 1902 with its few hundred members, to the Farmers' Union of today with 62,500 is a spectacular advance indeed. Some aspects of that history are told in the special articles in this issue.

In spite of technological progress the Alberta farmer of 1955 still needs a farm organization. But he does not have to build one. The Farm Union and Co-operatives of today are adequate for the job. All farmers have to do is use them to the full. But no organization will run itself. It will pay Alberta farmers to attend to their Union business. No one else will do it for them.

A BACK-HANDED DECISION

Just recently it was announced from Ottawa that the Board of Transport Commissioners has agreed to grant the Railways the right to increase the domestic freight rates on grain by 10 percent. This increase will come into effect on January 1st, next. In the meantime, the Board will hold hearings in various parts of Canada to hear objections from organizations opposed to this increase.

This is going about the thing from the wrong end. If the railways are entitled to a 10 percent increase, it is up to them to prove it. It is the height of absurdity for the Transport Board to award them an increase without proof of need and then in effect challenge us to disprove their need.

The Board of Transport Commissioners is a semi-judicial body. It has many of the functions of a Court. It receives evidence and renders judgments. Yet no court ever presumes to decide a case and pronounce sentence without first hearing the evidence.

Suppose a court, before a trial took place, announced that a certain accused man was guilty of theft and was sentenced to 10 years in the Penitentiary, the sentence to begin Janu-

ary 1st next, with a proviso however, that before that time the court would hear evidence to determine whether he was really guilty.

Of course farm organizations including the Interprovincial Unions, will protest this decision and try to get it changed. But in this case, we have two strikes against us already in the fact that the railways have been awarded the increase with even the date set for its commencement. Since the inception of the Transport Board, no such outrageous decision has disfigured their record. It is to be hoped that the power of public opinion will bring them to a realization of their mistake.

DISTRICT 8 BOARD MEETING

District 8 Board met on August 13th in the Elks Hall at Daysland. The following members were present: Director, Mr. W. Hansel; F.W.U.A. Director, Mrs. Cecil Keast; Alternate Director, Mr. C. Keast; Junior Director, Calvin Ross; and Sub-directors M. Lundy, E. Repp and J. Ross.

Resolutions left from the annual convention were discussed at this meeting, and voted on. Mr. Hansel read and explained the minutes of the Provincial Board meeting.

Board members stood for one minute of silence in respect to Mrs. John Haesloop, mother of Rudy Haesloop, who passed away recently.

The District Board agreed to pay for meals and mileage for those that are appointed to attend the sub-district committee meetings. The liaison committee (A.F.A.-F.U.A.) was explained by Mr. Hansel.

Reports were heard from the sub-directors.

1951 CENSUS OF CANADA

Table 34—Economic Classification of Farms in Alberta (1950)

All Occupied Farms	84,315
Value of Products sold of:	
\$20,000 and over	1,231
\$15,000 to 19,999	1,015
\$10,000 to 14,000	2,828
\$ 7,500 to 9,999	3,400
5,000 to 7,499	7,748
3,750 to 4,999	7,762
2,500 to 3,749	12,841
1,200 to 2,499	21,177
250 to 1,199	12,964
Total	70,966
Small Scale Farms:	
Value of Products sold less	
than \$250.00	8,141
Part time farms	5,118
Institutional Farms	90
Total	13,349
Total Farms	84,315

Name ONE thing
Just ONE

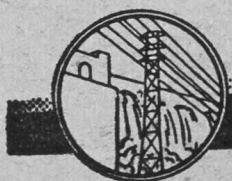
EXCEPT ELECTRIC SERVICE

which COSTS LESS
Today than

- ★ 10 YEARS AGO!
- ★ 25 YEARS AGO!



ELECTRIC SERVICE
Costs Less Today
Than Ever Before!



CALGARY POWER LTD.

HELPING TO BUILD A BETTER ALBERTA

A Brief History of The United Farmers of Alberta

By George Church

The United Farmers of Alberta came into being in 1909 with the amalgamation of the Canadian Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmers Association, with James Bower of Red Deer as its first president. It was not until 1915 that the Farm Women organized as a separate branch of the movement. From 1913 they had been accepted into membership and had a Women's Auxiliary. In 1919 the last link was forged with the organization of the Junior Branch.

Dissatisfaction with the Liberal Government caused the U.F.A. to contest a by-election in 1920 in the Cochrane riding and they were successful in electing their candidate. In 1921 the U.F.A. had candidates in nearly all ridings and formed the government and continued to do so until 1935. In 1939, by resolution, the organization withdrew from direct political action and amended its constitution so that any directors or officials holding political positions or running as candidates must resign. During 1921 to 1935 the United Farmers elected a majority of the federal representatives, who became known as the "Ginger Group". In 1926 for a short time, this group held the balance of power.

U.F.A. locals were organized in nearly all parts of the province and through the annual conventions the elected representatives were able to get many acts vital to the welfare of the rural people placed on the statute books of the province and the dominion.

The annual conventions of the organization acted as clearing houses for the many problems of its members and farmers generally. Officers of the Association were elected at the annual convention. During its existence as an educational organization the U.F.A. had just six presidents—Jas. Bower, W. Tregillus, Jas. Speakman, H. W. Wood, Robt. Gardiner and myself.

The Women's Section looked after matters of particular interest to women, such as Health, Education and Young People. It operated under the same constitution and elected its own officers and was represented on the board and executive of the main organization. The Junior Branch was similarly set up and was represented on the senior organization through its president.

From its very beginning the U.F.A. took a keen interest in co-operation and various locals banded together to buy their binder twine, coal, wood, etc., co-operatively. The U.F.A. lent its staff and officers to assist in the organization of the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1923-24 and since that time, and before, has assisted many co-ops in their organizational stages.

In 1918 the U.F.A. was organized under a provincial charter which gave it the right to do business for its members. This was done in a small way until

1931, when the organization undertook to supply locals and members with petroleum products. In 1932 U.F.A. Central Co-operative was organized as a subsidiary to handle the co-operative activities of the organization. In 1935 the organization undertook to act as agent for Maple Leaf Petroleum and this has become its main activity and now serves its members at about 150 points in Alberta with high quality petroleum products.

After several years of negotiating, the Alberta Farmers Union, another farmers' organization set up in the early forties, and the educational section of the United Farmers of Alberta, amalgamated to form the Farmers Union of Alberta in a way similar to that in which the U.F.A. came into being. The U.F.A. had its charter amended by adding the words "Co-operative Limited". Since that time U.F.A. Co-op has greatly expanded.

Continued urging by certain sections of the membership caused the organization to undertake the establishing or taking over of co-operative stores at a number of points in the province. These were operated from 1940 to 1950, when they were sold to the Alberta Co-operative Wholesale.

Over the years the use of the Farm Supplies Department has steadily increased, and in 1953 it was found necessary to build a large warehouse in Calgary to give efficient service to members and locals. In 1954 an office was opened in Edmonton to look after the requirements of the members in the northern part of the province.

In 1940 a building was purchased in Calgary and remodelled and offices of the organization and Maple Leaf Petroleum housed upstairs, with the Co-op store on the ground floor and in the basement. An up-to-date service station was also erected on the same property with ample parking space for customers.

Members share in the profits of the organization according to their patronage, and since 1932 over one and a half million dollars have been declared or paid in cash by U.F.A.

Delegates to attend the annual meeting are elected by post card ballot. The province is divided into seven main districts, which are subdivided into five districts. The delegates from each district elect their own director, and these directors in turn elect from their number a chairman, vice-chairman and executive member. The present officers of the Association are: Geo. E. Church, chairman; Jake Frey, vice-chairman; Geo. N. Johnston, executive member; Miss Eileen Birch, secretary and W. J. Hoppins, general manager.

Yields from an alfalfa-brome mixture have been increased from 937 to 4,926 pounds per acre through the use of fertilizer. This increase was on sandy loam and was the average of results with 16-20-0 and 11-48-0. The results on loam and silt loam soils were not as spectacular reports the Lacombe experimental station.

For Easy Grain Handling!

This is the time to think about easy handling of grain during the rush of the harvest season. U.F.A. Co-op offers you two loaders, both top quality, and with price range to suit everyone.

The Scoop-A-Second Portable Loader

in 20 foot, 24 foot and 30 foot sizes.

The finest portable ever made, with outstanding features: Easy raising, low mounted crank. Low towing feature. Specially designed rubber-tired trailer. Patented low motor mounting, never more than 16 inches off ground. Fewer working parts, less power required. Elevates 800 to 1200 bushels per hour.

U.F.A. Co-op Utility Grain Loader

Quality at a price. Comes in 24-foot size, with all the features of the expensive loader at the price you can afford. This loader features:

Gear box driven chrome cast bevel gears running in grease.

One-piece tubing, heavy gauge and lock seam.

Low towing feature. Interchangeable oilite bearings, all equipped with alemite fittings.

Store your grain in a Galvanized Steel BUTLER Grain Bin

Butler is the leader in the field, with many exclusive features: Weather tight, rodent proof door, with two latches. Hinged manhole cover — can't be lost. 22½ inch Platform Ventilator — maximum ventilation, easy filling. Extra strong wall, double vertical seams, fastened by bolts. Extra strength weather sealed roof. New auger opening for easy unloading.

For further information and prices contact your local or U.F.A. Co-op, Calgary or Edmonton.

BUY FARM SUPPLIES THROUGH

U. F. A. Co-op Farm Supply Dept.

10126 - 98th Street, Edmonton.

125 - 11th Avenue E., Calgary.

CO-OPS TO DISTRIBUTE CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

Co-operatives will begin immediately to distribute chemical fertilizers in Western Canada, according to an announcement made by George Urwin, President of Interprovincial Co-operatives Ltd. Source of supply will be the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co.

From Western Ontario across the prairies and into B.C., co-op fertilizer distribution will be handled chiefly by consumer co-operatives and their regional wholesales. The contract with the supplier was signed by the interprovincial organization, which is owned by consumer co-operative organizations across Canada.

Commenting on the new arrangement, Mr. Urwin stated: "Farmers in Western Canada are making every effort to use their cultivated land to the best advantage. They can thus keep production costs to a minimum, so that Canadian grain can compete successfully in world markets. By supplying fertilizer to farmers at cost through the co-operative method, we are making a real contribution towards reducing the expenses of grain producers, as well as increasing yield per acre."

Fertilizers to be distributed by co-operatives in Western Canada will be the same types that have been used by farmers for many years. The two main formulas are 11-48-0 (11% Nitrogen, 48% Phosphate, 0% Potash) and 16-20-0.

Extensive tests have definitely proven that these chemical fertilizers are valuable for increasing production, according to official publications of Departments of Agriculture in the three prairie provinces. Average increases in wheat yield on summerfallow by use of 11-48-0 fertilizer have been 7.3 bushels per acre in Manitoba, 6.4 in Saskatchewan and 9.1 in Alberta.

"The present cost per acre of this fertilizer is about \$2.40. The increase in production represents approximately a \$3.00 return from each \$1.00 invested in commercial fertilizer", states the government publication "Fertilizer Use in Manitoba" issued in March of this year.

The pamphlet reports that comparable returns have been obtained from oats and barley sown on fallow, with yield increases from 11 to 17 bushels per acre respectively by the use of 40 lbs. per acre of 11-48-0 fertilizer.

In addition to the increase in grain production through use of chemical fertilizer, its value in soil conservation has been pointed out by agricultural specialists. J. M. Parker, Director of the Soils and Crops Branch, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, states that "ammonium-phosphate fertilizers definitely form an essential part of a well-rounded soil conservation program."

"Co-op members and farmers will receive with satisfaction the news that, for the first time in the history of the three prairie provinces, there will be

competition in the distribution of chemical fertilizers", commented B. Johnsrude, assistant general manager of Interprovincial Co-operatives Ltd. "The expansion of co-operatives into the fertilizer field is the result of a long investigation following many years of agitation by farmers through their various agricultural organizations."

While the types of chemical fertilizers used in Ontario vary to a much greater extent than is the case on the prairies, Mr. Johnsrude expressed the expectation that Ontario co-operatives would procure their 11-48-0 requirements under the new arrangements.

F.U.A.-A.F.A. COMMITTEE REPORT

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

This is our Jubilee year in Alberta, and marks 50 years of progress. This year marks the same anniversary for farm organizations.

As we glance backwards, we note that farm groups have sprung up at various times, and the farmers themselves have decided that either because of duplicity of purpose or to give strength in one voice, they have merged their group activity to make a strong organization.

Among all these efforts we see our various co-operative efforts working for us — all these the farmers built for themselves. Gradually the farmers are seeing the necessity of not only producing efficiently, but realize they must market their own business and be assured of a fair price for their commodities.

If this be the trend, then I think the direct farmer organization, the grass roots people, are going to need to know the workings of commerce, and use any available knowledge they can get to give the business or commercial approach in understanding the right things to ask for as well as putting programs into operation.

I can see no better way to do this than by seeking the assistance of our competent leaders of our co-operative farm organizations. I cannot see any useful purpose in pretending we, the grass roots farmers, can do all these things by ourselves. It keeps us busy enough just begging the farmer to be a member of the grass roots organization.

I do not mean that our business dealings should not be discussed at the grass roots level, but I do mean that the average farmer just does not have the time to attend to all the phases of producing and marketing his commodities.

Then I can see that the F.U.A. and A.F.A. have need of each other, and co-ordination of effort in the best possible way should be the aim of every farmer and co-operator.

From my experience I feel I can say that closer unity has been accomplished, by making the effort of getting together and talking over farm problems

(Continued on Page 15)

Advisory Committee of the Canadian Wheat Board Reorganized

Farm members will be interested to learn that the personnel of the Advisory Committee of the Canadian Wheat Board has been revised. The new Committee, appointed in July by order-in-council, is made up entirely of representatives from farm organizations and farmer grain co-operatives. The new Committee members are:

Mr. J. E. Brownlee — President, United Grain Growers Limited.

Mr. W. J. Parker — President, Manitoba Wheat Pool.

Mr. J. H. Wesson — President, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Mr. Ben S. Plumer — President Alberta Wheat Pool.

Mr. C. P. Hansen — President, Saskatchewan Farmers' Union.

Mr. Roy C. Marler — President, Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

Car Insurance Committee

The joint A.F.A. — F.U.A. Committee appointed to study the question of car insurance reports satisfactory progress.

The Committee is sparing no effort to gain all the facts possible regarding this question. During early August a two-day meeting was held in Edmonton, at which time the Committee interviewed a number of prominent authorities on insurance.

Federation Submissions

The Federation has recently filed a brief with the Royal Commission on Coasting Trade which held a sitting at Regina on September 7th. The stand taken by the Federation is that the interest of the Western farmer can best be served by keeping restrictions, with regard to coastal and lake shipping, at a minimum and thus permitting foreign ships to compete for trade, giving them an opportunity to earn Canadian dollars.

The Federation is also working on a brief that will oppose the proposed ten percent increase in rates for the movement of domestic grains. It is reported that this question will be up for consideration sometime this Fall.

Copies of the Marketing Act, as passed at the recent session of the Alberta Legislature, are available on request from the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, 507 McLeod Building, Edmonton.

F.U.A.-A.F.A. COMMITTEE REPORT

(Continued from Page 13)

and ways and means of solving them. Let us continue, and then we can see that 50 years of progress really does mean something—when farmers themselves use the organizations that they themselves have built. The growth of some of our co-operative ventures has been tremendous, but I do think even a small one needs good management if it is to survive the tempest of time. I do not think that grass roots farmers can afford to be independent of all this experience and knowledge.

The farmers themselves set the course, we need pilots at all times who are devoid of selfish aspiration, and their efforts be directed to looking after the farmers' interests and getting a square deal for all involved in the agricultural economy. Let us not lose any of our gains of our 50 years of organization, but perhaps we can review just how this progress was made and thus supply ourselves with a chart for future strength. I think the answer lies in working together.

F.U.A. DISTRICT BOARD MEETS

District 7 FUA Board of Directors recently held a board meeting at Vermilion. Present were Mrs. Redman, Director; J. Magill, Alternate Director; Mrs. Finlay, FWUA Diirector; Mrs. Gibson, Alternate FWUA Director and Paul Ewanciw, Jr. Director. Sub-Directors attending were Messrs. Chmiliar, Wilson, Drever and Jack.

The most important business of the day was board organization for the coming year, and plans for the forthcoming membership drive, "Jubilee Day Drive" scheduled for mid November.

Committee meetings of drive foremen from each local will be held in every Sub-District, with the Sub-Director in charge of arrangements for his sub-district. The proposed plan of action for drive day will be set up, and areas will be clearly outlined so each community will be covered.

It was decided that District 7 should contribute \$500 to the FUA Building Fund for Provincial FUA Headquarters now under construction in Edmonton.

Mrs. Redman reported on the recent Inter-provincial Farm Union Conference held in Saskatoon and on arrangements being made for the annual provincial convention to be held in Edmonton, Dec. 5th - 9th. It is hoped that the Farmers' Union will have one or more vehicles in the Jubilee Parade being held in Edmonton Sept. 7th and that the earliest pioneers will ride in them. Old-timers from District 7 who may be in Edmonton for that day should contact their sub-district directors. A history of

the organized farm movement is being planned for publication in the near future.

Sub-district reports centred on Farmers' Day celebrations held in each area and on successful means of raising funds to send delegates to the provincial convention.

DISTRICT 7 CONVENTION

District 7 annual convention, which was held at Wainwright, July 4th, was opened at 10:50 a.m. by the singing of O Canada. Address of welcome was given by Mayor Douglas Wallace and Mr. Reome, chairman of the Wainwright Chamber of Commerce.

Reports were given by the District F.U.A. Director, Mrs. Mildred G. Redman and the District President, J. Anderson. Mrs. Mathison and Mrs. Ruster reported on the F.W.U.A.

Mr. Henry Young, F.U.A. President, in his address spoke on the increase in membership, legislation passed during the year. He also spoke on the need for parity prices and crop insurance.

Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, F.W.U.A. President, spoke on the need for the movement to advertise its accomplishments. She outlined some of the social benefits for which the F.W.U.A. had worked in the past, and some in which they were interested at the present.

Mr. W. G. Logan, co-ordinator of organization, also spoke briefly on the plans for the coming membership drive.

A number of resolutions were discussed and passed. Among them were ones dealing with Income Tax, P.F.A.A., Car Insurance, Price of Gas, etc.

Officers elected were:

F.U.A. Alternate Director—J. Magill

F.W.U.A. Director—Mrs. George Finlay

F.W.U.A. Alternate Director—Mrs. Andrew Gibson

Junior Director—Paul Ewanciw

Secretary—Mrs. Katherine Magill

Sub-directors are: Mike Chmiliar, Tom Foy, Ralph Willson, Geo. Jack, L. Killoran, Cecil Gordon, Cyril Drever, Alex Steele.

F.U.A. Director—Mrs. Mildred G. Redman

TIME OUT

Two inveterate golf bugs had just landed on the 12th green of their golf course when a funeral procession slowly wound its way past them on the adjoining highway.

One of the golfers respectfully doffed his cap and bowed his head low until the cortege disappeared.

"That was a nice gesture, George," said the other golfer. "I had no idea you were so sentimental."

George picked up his putter and carefully measured the distance to the hole.

"Well, it was the least I could do," he said. "Two more days and we would have been married twenty-five years."

Farm Women's Union of Alberta

F.W.U.A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

Radio Broadcasts:

Since my last report I have had the opportunity of making two radio broadcasts. I do hope all districts are listening to the weekly radio talks by Mr. Young and myself. We are trying to reach you via the spoken word as well as the printed articles in the Organized Farmer, news flashes and special papers. It is my opinion that our membership should be informed and feel that we are really trying to do this in every way. We hope that YOU will listen to your local radio station regularly and read our articles. Only then can we keep up-to-date on our agricultural situation. The list of stations and times are printed on the front cover of the August issue of the Organized Farmer. There is one correction—F.U.A. time on C.F.C.N. Calgary is 12:24 noon Wednesday.

Executive Meeting:

The F.U.A. Executive met on Aug. 9th and a very full agenda was taken care of by the members. In discussing the Provincial Jubilee celebrations and what part our farm organizations would take, we agreed that we could only participate in our towns. As I told you in the recent broadcast we are planning something special for the 50 years of farm organizations.

Building Program:

Due to a shortage of structural steel, our F.U.A. building has been held up, but we hope with good weather that we can go right ahead and have our office in time for our membership drive. Incidentally the new main branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was officially opened in Calgary yesterday. Guides conducted tours of this beautiful structure and I was in the first group to go through. Organized finance does really big things.

Agricultural Committee:

Your A.F.A. and F.U.A. committee members will meet with the Government to hear matters pertaining to agriculture. This will proceed from the point where the government dissolved.

F.W.U.A. Executive:

Your F.W.U.A. Executive will meet early in October, so if you have any matter you wish them to hear, please forward it in plenty of time to be placed on the agenda. We expect a busy time on Convention program, etc.

F.W.U.A. HI-LIGHTS

Pollockville F.W.U.A. No. 1106 report a very busy and interesting meeting in July. Many matters

were discussed and some donations made, and it was agreed that they should buy a copy of the Alberta Anthology for the local's library. Literature recommended by Mrs. Armstrong was approved and paid for. Highlights of the Big Stone Conference were given. They report the picnic and dance for which the ladies handled the booth and prepared the lunch was very enjoyable and very successful.

* * *

The St. Albert F.W.U.A. No. 502 asked for "Further information on legislation concerning women's rights" and "A request for more information on National Health Insurance". Lively discussion followed the reading of the bulletin on Federal and Provincial legislation. A very good report on District 5 Convention was given by Mrs. Scragg.

* * *

Beaverlodge F.W.U.A. No. 107 plan to hold a picnic and visit the experimental farm. They plan to have a speaker talk to the local on "Women's Rights".

* * *

The Roll Call of Royce F.W.U.A. No. 203, "Where I would like to spend my holidays" proved that most of the members preferred Vancouver and Banff. A Bake Sale will be held on September 24th by this local. Material has been ordered for an Apron Sale in the fall. Mrs. Arnold Lundgard volunteered to make a study of Health Insurance for the benefit of the local.

* * *

The ladies of the New Borschiw Local No. 625 answered the Roll Call with "Where they would prefer to spend their holidays" and an exchange of hostess aprons. A discussion on winter activities was held and plans made for a bazaar. A report on the Lamont Convention was read and Mrs. J. Ogradnick gave an interesting bulletin on health. Roll Call for September will be an exchange of preserves.

* * *

At the July meeting of Marwayne F.W.U.A. Local No. 716 plans were completed for the second annual Flower Show to be held in Marwayne Friday, August 19th. Over 40 classes of flowers, house plants, fruits and vegetables will be shown. There will also be a table of home baking and farm produce. A very nice gave an interesting bulletin on health. Roll Call for September will be an exchange of preserves.

* * *

Heath F.W.U.A. Local No. 703 report that they plan to rent a lot at Clear Lake for a picnic ground, and are hopeful that it will prove to be a worth while project. The ladies of this local each invite neigh-

bours to attend the local meetings in the hope that they will eventually become members.

* * *

Several members off Sydenham-Gerald Local No. 710 ((Wainwright) attended the Farm Women's week at Vermilion and gave interesting reports to the Local meeting. A resolution was sponsored by this Local asking that the F.U.A. annual convention be held starting the first Monday after January 7th.

* * *

The members of Drumheller East F.W.U.A. No. 1111 (Rosedale) decided to ask their district Home Economist, Mrs. Lorraine Rea, of Hanna, to their next meeting, in August, to speak on "Money Making Ideas".

* * *

At Conrich F.W.U.A. Local No. 1007 meeting in July an article on "Parity Prices" was read and discussed. It was planned to buy and make new curtains for the stage at Chestermere Community Hall.

* * *

Freedom F.W.U.A. Local No. 310 have decided that the hospital visiting committee are to supply ice cream to all the patients and staff in the district hospital one day a month, and every local member having a baby is to be given a bone-china cup and saucer by the local. An electric coffee pot and an oil painting are to be raffled sometime in the month of December. Money to be used to send a delegate to the annual convention.

* * *

At the August meeting of Swalwell F.W.U.A. No. 1017, July and August letters and bulletins were read and felt to be especially good.

* * *

A report on Interprovincial Council activities was given by Freda Roll. This led to an interesting discussion by members of the Irvine F.W.U.A. No. 1309. A motion was made that each member pay 15c into the A.C.W.W. fund for the convention in Ceylon in 1956. \$5.00 was paid into the Jubilee fund for the celebration in Irvine. At the social hour which followed the meeting, the ladies were joined by the men for lunch.

* * *

A social evening has been planned by Jenny Lind F.W.U.A. No. 1305 to raise money for C.N.I.B. Plans for organizing a band for Scandia are being discussed, also plans for the writing of a history of Scandia in pamphlet form. A friendship quilt was raffled and \$46.45 was realized from the sale of tickets, and this was given to the Brooks Rest Room.

* * *

It is reported by Clover Bar F.W.U.A. No. 602 that the members paid a recent visit to the Oliver Mental Home, in connection with their program on mental health. Their visit was to the occupational therapy section of the hospital, where the patients are learning handicrafts of many kinds. Much of

the work was on display and for sale at cost. An interesting paper on the "Work of Dr. Archer, pioneer of the Lamont Hospital" was read to the ladies by their convenor of health.

* * *

In lieu of the regular meeting, the St. Albert F.W.U.A. No. 502 made a tour of the University buildings and grounds, conducted by Lt. Col. Cormack, and the ladies spent a very enjoyable time. The tour ended with a film on "Group Discussion" to illustrate some of the work done by the Department of Extension. The next meeting will be held on October 11th.

* * *

Ranfurly F.W.U.A. No. 610 heard an interesting report on Farm Women's Week at Vermilion School of Agriculture. The proposed new Community Centre was discussed and members asked to bring their ideas for the kitchen. The Local will try to raise funds to help buy kitchen equipment.

* * *

Brooks F.W.U.A. No. 1302 opened the meeting with "Where would you like to spend a holiday", followed by reading of letters and bulletins from Head Office. It is hoped that Mrs. Norma Jean Gray will visit the local the latter part of October. It was decided to ask the men to stress family memberships in the fall round-up, rather than single, wherever possible.

* * *

The ladies of Innisfree F.W.U.A. Local No. 704 object to a joint magazine and feel that we should hold to a magazine of our very own, although it might be improved on.

* * *

At the August meeting of Willow Springs F.W.U.A. No. 612 (Bon Accord) very interesting reports from the District Convention at Lamont in July were given. Plans were made for a bingo party and dance on November 11th. Mrs. Armstrong is to be invited to attend a meeting of the Local at her convenience.

* * *

Viking South F.W.U.A. No. 807 report a good meeting in spite of the busy season. Two bulletins on health were read and an interesting discussion followed. The matter of health insurance was taken up and further information is to be obtained from Ottawa and a study of the matter undertaken by the local. The ladies who attended the Farm Women's Week at Vermilion were very pleased and hope to spend more time at it another year.

* * *

Fairview F.W.U.A. No. 201 cancelled their September meeting, and the next meeting is to be held the first Thursday in October at the home of Mrs. V. Eaglesham.

* * *

At the August meeting of Berrywater F.W.U.A. No. 1202 (Vulcan) a discussion was held on Mrs.

McBride's suggestion of a joint F.U.A. and F.W.U. A. Anthology in place of the F.U.A. History. A report was given by the junior delegate sent to Farm Young People's Week in Edmonton.

* * *

It is reported by Black Diamond FWUA No. 1214 (Okotoks) that a meeting was called July 29 for a talk and demonstration by Miss Randle, representative of Home Economics for the Dept. of Agriculture. The evening was very much enjoyed by this local and their guests—the Okotoks FWUA. The matter of forming a Junior local is under way.

* * *

Gleichen F.W.U.A. No. 1010 report that the home baking, Bingo and the joint FWUA and FUA picnic held in August were very successful. They are preparing for their annual dance and quilt raffle next.

* * *

Due to the busy season Andrew F.W.U.A. No. 630 held no meeting in September, but the next meeting is to be held on October 27th.

* * *

Northern Lights FWUA No. 205 (Bluesky) find their meetings very interesting and that many non-members attend who offer their homes as meeting places and even supply lunches. These are potential new members for the coming year.

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of valuable Bursaries and Scholarships are provided by the Alberta Wheat Pool for farm young people residing within the province. They are as follows:

Alberta Wheat Pool Scholarships for Rural Students

Two Scholarships of \$500 per year to students from Alberta High Schools, one from the south and one from the north, tenable at the University of Alberta in any undergraduate degree program. \$500 will be paid to each scholar during each of the undergraduate years, up to and including five years, providing that he or she maintain the average standing of not less than 65% each year. Application forms are available at the University of Alberta and the Alberta Wheat Pool's local Field Service personnel should be used for reference.

Henry Wise Wood Memorial Bursaries

Six Bursaries valued at \$75 each are offered by the Alberta Wheat Pool to assist farm boys and girls to enter the Provincial Schools of Agriculture. Members of 4H Clubs sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool (Wheat, Garden and Forage Clubs) are eligible. One boy and one girl at each school may receive one of these awards. These Bursaries must be used in the year in which they are awarded. Recommendation must be received by District Agriculturists and Home Economists.

Alberta Wheat Pool Scholarships in Home Economics

Three Scholarships valued at \$200 each are arranged to assist members of Girls' Garden Clubs to take the course in Home Economics at the University of Alberta. These Scholarships are available one, two or three years. Recommendations must be received by District Agriculturists and Home Economists.

WINS WHEAT POOL SCHOLARSHIP

Duane Gottschlich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Gottschlich of Lacombe, won an Alberta Wheat Pool scholarship of \$2,500, to be spread over a five-year university course. The 18-year-old received an average of 81 percent in her grade 12 exams. Duane, who was junior F.U.A. queen in 1954 and went to Ottawa on the Rotary "Adventure in Citizenship" trip, will enter the U. of A. in arts and science.

New System of Pricing Set For Grain

WINNIPEG (CP) — A new pricing system, designed to facilitate movement of western feed grain to eastern Canada, has been inaugurated by the Canadian Wheat Board.

Under the new system, shippers will be able to buy oats, barley and feed wheat at the lakehead at a "provisional price" for sale in eastern Canada and make a settlement with the board later when the grain is finally sold.

The "provisional price" will equal the initial price paid producers for the grain by the Wheat Board. The final price will be the board's selling price on the date of the final sale.

Initial prices at the lakehead are 60 cents a bushel for No. 1 feed oats, 87 cents for No. 1 feed barley and \$1.12 for No. 5 wheat. The board said prices for other grades will be based on the price spread at the time.

All storage, interest, insurance and forwarding charges will be charged to the shipper from agreed date of delivery of the grain at the lakehead.

F.U.A. RADIO BROADCASTS

CJCA — Edmonton — 10:15 p.m. Thursday
 CFGP — Grande Prairie — 9:55 p.m. Thursday
 CKRD — Red Deer — 9:10 p.m. Friday
 CJOC — Lethbridge — 9:05 p.m. Monday
 CFCN — Calgary — 12:24 p.m. Wednesday
 CHAT — Medicine Hat — 1:15 p.m. Friday
 CFCW — Camrose — 12:55 p.m. Wednesday

NOTE new time at Grande Prairie, also CFCW — Camrose starting September 21st. Others same time.

MEMBERSHIP RECORD AUGUST, 1955

	Aug. Men	To date Men	Aug. Women	To date Women	Aug. Assoc.	To date Assoc.	Aug. Jrs.	To date Jrs.	Aug. Total	To date Total
B.C. BLOCK	2	530	---	183	---	---	---	126	2	839
DISTRICT 1	1	2097	2	795	---	---	---	446	3	3338
DISTRICT 2	2	2680	---	990	---	---	---	655	2	4325
DISTRICT 3	2	2650	2	927	---	3	---	675	4	4255
DISTRICT 4	---	3517	---	1372	---	---	---	1096	---	5985
DISTRICT 5	1	2771	---	988	---	---	---	701	1	4460
DISTRICT 6	1	4531	1	2155	---	7	---	1393	2	8086
DISTRICT 7	4	3713	---	1320	---	1	---	774	4	5808
DISTRICT 8	1	2986	---	1053	---	2	---	553	1	4594
DISTRICT 9	3	3574	1	1188	---	3	---	705	4	5469
DISTRICT 10	4	3644	4	940	---	17	1	434	9	5035
DISTRICT 11	9	1668	---	668	---	11	6	264	15	2611
DISTRICT 12	2	2225	---	978	---	8	---	360	2	3571
DISTRICT 13	---	878	---	328	---	1	---	151	---	1358
DISTRICT 14	1	1615	---	655	---	1	---	375	1	2646
Total	33	39079	10	14540	---	54	7	8708	50	62,380

BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

Previously Acknowledged	\$38,198.38
Glendon No. 427	25.00
District 7	500.00
Mr. Ross, R.R. 5, Edmonton	2.00
Waskatenau No. 418	50.00
Sprucefield No. 454	25.00
Dakota No. 915	36.00
Whitla No. 1411	10.00
King George Meeting (bricks)	10.50
Heatherdown FUA No. 553	10.00
Zaporoze No. 681	20.00
Wm. I. Garuk, Bellis	1.00
E.E. Grigvleit, Hines Creek	1.00
Sedgewick No. 844	50.00
Whitford FWUA No. 628	10.00
Ed Vervynck, Morinville	3.00
Westrose No. 958	25.50
Imperial FWUA No. 621	25.00
Spruce Coulee No. 837	12.00
Sydenham Gerald FWUA No. 710	6.00
Hillside West Liberty No. 927	40.00
Betchton No. 1003	150.00
Codesa, No. 112	10.00
Total	39,256.38

MUNICIPAL & OTHER GRANTS

Previously acknowledged	1750.00
M. D. of Eagle	75.00
M. D. of Wainwright	50.00
M. D. of Sturgeon	100.00
United Grain Growers	2500.00
	4475.00

MAKE YOUR HOME AT

The Macdonald Hotel

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of the

Farmers' Union of Alberta

December 5 to 9, 1955

FOR THOSE ATTENDING SPECIAL RATES
HAVE BEEN ARRANGED:

Room without Bath, 1 person	\$4.00
" " " 2 persons	6.00
Room with Bath, 1 person	6.00
" " " 2 persons	8.00

THE PRICE OF OIL

The document dealing with the price of oil in western Europe prepared by a branch of the United Nations states that the oil industry on that continent is subject to a wide network of cartel practices, and that the United States oil prices are the keystone of the world structure. The document states that the price paid for oil by western Europe to the Middle East is tied to that of the United States and if this link were severed the price of oil to European consumers could be significantly lowered.

Tradition and Challenge

By J. E. Brownlee

As part of the Jubilee Ceremonies of our neighboring province, a gathering was held recently at Indian Head to celebrate Farm Movement Day. A cairn was unveiled in memory of the pioneers who had laid the foundations for, and carried on the early work of organizing, the Farm Movement in that province. It is timely that in the city of Edmonton a building is now being erected to house the offices of the Farmers' Union of Alberta. It would be fitting, if as part of the opening of that building, some ceremony could be organized to commemorate the Farm Movement in this province, and to pay tribute to the early leaders of that movement. Certainly in many ways the movement in Alberta has been more venturesome than similar movements in any of the other provinces of Canada, and has as fine a record of achievement.

The founders of the Farm Movement in this province established a great tradition of achievement. This was done primarily by mobilizing farm opinion through strong and vigorous locals in every part of the province, and encouraging those locals to meet frequently to discuss the social and economic problems affecting farm life. Some of the happiest recollections of the writer are the visits made to various communities with that great farm leader, Mr. Henry Wise Wood. No meeting was a failure. At every point farmers came in numbers by buggy, wagon or by automobile to hear the speaker, and to engage in vigorous discussion of subjects of timely interest to them. Not only was a keen, alert and well informed farm opinion developed, but at the same time a strong and vigorous farm movement was established.

It always seemed to the writer to be peculiarly significant that as part of the Farm Movement of those days the idea was evolved of a U.F.A. Sunday, during which services were held in many churches to commemorate the movement and to invoke Divine guidance upon its work. Indeed, on many occasions the observation was made that in those days the Farm Movement had become almost a religion to its many members.

The strong and vigorous farm opinion thus created made it possible for the movement to act quickly and successfully when any problems confronted it. In fact some of the accomplishments could not be traced directly to the work of any one leader or group of leaders, but seemed to spring from the spontaneous action of the members. That was the case, for example, when in the early '20's the decision was reached to take political action, first in the Dominion field and later in the Provincial field. However short the notice of the election, the movement was organized to meet the challenge, with

the results now so well known.

The period of the '20's was in fact the period of its greatest achievement. It was significant of its organization and strength, that following the visit of Mr. Aaron Sapiro, and the decision to organize a Wheat Pool in each of the prairie provinces, the necessary sign-up was completed in time to handle the growing crop, but in other provinces the sign-up was not completed until the following year.

The statute books of a province offer a good index of the moral and social achievements of its people. The statutes of Alberta since 1905 are rich with legislative enactments inspired by the Farm Movement to give to the farm people of Alberta standards of living appropriate to a modern community. So we have the enactments to provide for adequate school, hospital and health services, to provide some protection against the ravages of hail and climatic reverses, to protect purchasers of farm machinery, and to secure debtors against oppressive acts of creditors during adverse conditions. In particular leaders of the Women's Section of the movement were able to obtain legislative provision with respect to the right of the franchise, the protection of children, the determination of property rights, Dower rights and protection in the disposition of estates by wills. That is the tradition of achievement handed down to the Farm Movement of today.

It is, of course, true that such movements must reflect the conditions under which they work. In some respects the movement in this province was never more strongly organized. In the commercial field large organizations, such as United Grain Growers Limited, the Alberta Wheat Pool, the Dairy Pools and co-operatives formed to market other farm products, or to act as purchasing agents for farmers, are powerfully organized and strongly financed, and are able to speak for their members in matters affecting that part of the farming industry which they particularly represent. They are also able to give strong and powerful support to the non-commercial movement. The national and provincial Federations of Agriculture are also effective spokesmen for their members, while the Farmers' Union of Alberta has succeeded in building up a membership to a higher percentage of the farm people of the province than at any previous time in the history of the province. The radio affords a medium of reaching the farm, not known to the pioneers in the movement.

Because of a succession of good crops with comparatively high prices, and with the achievements in the legislative field of some fifty years, no outstanding issue has confronted the Farm Movement in recent years. Sometimes one questions whether there is the intense loyalty to any one organization

that characterized the early years, or whether the number of organizations speaking for the farmers has lulled them into a sense of security. However, inflation has been running its course for some years, farm costs have increased, huge surpluses of wheat have accumulated and farm income has declined. Freight rates on the domestic movement of grain have increased. Movements are under way to undermine the Crow's Nest Pass rates upon the basis of which the farm industry in the province was built.

The Farm Movement of today, therefore, faces a

challenge. It is whether it can command the same spirit of loyalty and support enjoyed in earlier days, and whether the leaders of the various branches of the movement can come together quickly for common action whenever the occasion requires. It is the writer's considered opinion that farmers today have not forgotten the tradition of earlier days, and that whenever a great issue or challenge confronts them, they will respond as quickly and effectively as at any time heretofore.

The Farm Machinery Act

By Alan Brownlee

It is not an uncommon thing in a lawyer's office to hear stories of difficulties which farming people have encountered when fairly new farm machinery breaks down or performs unsatisfactorily. The problem can be a very critical one in certain seasons of the year when work must be carried out in a limited period of time and when the repairing of machinery can cause costly delays. Such situations should not be regarded simply as hazards of the farming business. In actual fact, very considerable protection is given to farmers under the provisions of the Farm Machinery Act of the Province of Alberta. Unfortunately, this Act does not seem to be as well known to farmers as might be expected.

The Farm Machinery Act has four main purposes which can be stated briefly as follows:

1. To protect purchasers of farm machinery from unfair or unreasonable conditions in farm machinery purchase agreements.
2. To place some degree of responsibility on Vendors of farm machinery who permit their agents to make representations as to the quality of the machinery sold.
3. To make sales of farm machinery subject to a warranty that the machinery will do the job for which it is purchased, and
4. To ensure that spare parts will be kept on hand by the Vendor.

We will not quote the Act in this article. Instead, we will give a brief interpretation of its provisions. It should be added at this point that the Act does not apply to second hand machinery.

At the time a farmer buys a farm implement, he is usually required to sign a form of purchase agreement, and in many cases the agreement will contain conditions which may later prove to be quite unreasonable. To give an example, the agreement may state that if the implement should break down, the purchaser must notify the manufacturer or vendor within a very few days if he intends to hold the manufacturer or vendor responsible for providing parts and making repairs. In a busy season the

farmer might find that he just does not have any time to spare, and he may be late in giving the required notice. The Farm Machinery Act provides that if a court or judge should consider any condition in a Purchase Agreement to be either unfair or unreasonable, such condition shall not be binding upon the purchaser. There are probably many other conditions set out in these Purchase Agreements which might, under certain circumstances, be either unfair or unreasonable, and in such cases the court will give relief from such conditions.

A second important provision of the Farm Machinery Act deals with the subject of verbal representations made by the vendor or his agent as to the ability of the machine to perform the work it is intended to do. The Act clearly states that the vendor is to be held responsible for the statements or representations made by his agents in the course of negotiating a sale. It would therefore follow that if the vendor himself, or his agents, should make exaggerated claims, and if the purchaser of the machinery should suffer a loss by reason of having relied on such representations, he would be entitled to bring an action in damages against the vendor.

Very strong protection is given to a purchaser of farm machinery by a clause in the Act which states that all farm machinery sold in the Province is sold with a definite warranty or guarantee. This warranty takes effect regardless of anything to the contrary which may be stated in the purchase agreement. Every machine is warranted as having been properly designed and constructed, as being in good working order and capable of satisfactorily performing the work for which it is intended. The only qualification is that the purchaser must at all times have exercised reasonable care in the operation and maintenance of the machinery.

Probably the major problem faced by farmers is the problem of getting repair work done quickly. The Act requires that the vendor keep adequate supplies of repair parts for a period of ten years from the date of sale. These parts must be kept in at least

two places of business in the Province not less than 150 miles apart. The obvious intention of the legislation is that a farmer should not have to wait while parts are brought in from outside the Province. In the event of the failure of a vendor to comply with this statutory provision, the vendor would be answerable to the farmer for such loss.

While the Farm Machinery Act goes a long way to protect farming people, it does not eliminate the necessity of exercising great care in the purchase of expensive implements. It seems to us that a farmer should read the purchase agreement carefully and should make every effort to comply with its terms so as to avoid the inconvenience of a reference to the Courts. We would also think that he should enquire carefully to ascertain that the person from whom he buys the implement is actually carrying the required stock of spare parts.

F.U.A. Broadcasts

F.U.A. BROADCAST NO. 19

The session of Parliament at Ottawa ended recently after sitting for 140 days. This is the longest session in recent years, and some members have complained because of this. In my opinion they have no cause to kick.

The position of M.P. is now a full time job. Canada now pays them \$10,000 per year, of which \$2,000 is tax free. Anyone taking this position should be prepared to leave his own business to others and concentrate on the job of serving Canada. Unfortunately there are still too many who regard their parliamentary duties as only a part-time job.

A few things of special interest to western farmers happened at the recent session. One was an amendment to the Canada Grain Act under which overages at terminal elevators will be confiscated and turned over to the Wheat Board. This is a reform that the Farm Unions have contended for, for years. The proceeds of these overages can now be included with the final payment to grain growers. However there is still no provision for the confiscation of overages at country elevators. At the present time the grain companies get most of the benefit from these, so that actually the more overages they get from the farmer, the better it pays them. This is not a good situation and should be corrected.

Another thing of interest is the amendment to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act which will make it apply to flooded farm land. In recent years we have had cases where farmers could not plant crops at all because of flood conditions. Then because they could not sow a crop, they could not collect under the P.F.A.A. Under the amendments, crop land

which has been flooded so it cannot be sown is put on the same basis as a crop which has been sown and destroyed.

This is a small advance in the direction of our goal of transforming the P.F.A.A. into a complete plan of crop insurance, but it is something. We have a lot of work to do yet along this line. The first essential is to get farmers all over the Prairies pulling together on this question of crop insurance. Until they do that, about all we can expect from the powers that be, is the additional small and piffling amendment to the present act.

However, this amendment has at least proved that the P.F.A.A. can be amended. For years we have been warned by Mr. Gardiner to leave the P.F.A.A. alone. We have been told that if we criticize it we may lose it altogether. That, in my opinion, is humbug. We will not get the changes that we want unless we press determinedly for them. The P.F.A.A. has done a lot of good, but changes are needed. We must never be afraid to let those in authority know what we want.

Another thing which took place at the recent session does not sound very good to western farmers. One of the opposition members moved a motion asking that the government "give consideration to the advisability of establishing a system of parity prices for agricultural products". You should note the moderation of this request. It does not bind the government, but merely asks that they give consideration to the establishment of parity prices. However this resolution was voted down by 108 to 59. In the vote, every liberal member who was present in the house voted against it. This will be quite interesting to our farmers in view of the loud protestations of devotion to agriculture made by western Liberal members.

Actually, why should the Government not give consideration to parity prices for Canadian farmers? Why should any member of any party hesitate to vote for such a proposal? The reason why is based on the political system which we follow in Canada. It has grown to be a practice that when a motion is made by the opposition, all Government members must oppose it. Often the Government finally adopts an idea which they voted down when the opposition proposed it.

This vote on parity prices is a good example of the stupidity of our present political system. Party loyalty is now considered more important than sincerity. Members must vote as they are told regardless of principle. No wonder that many people regard politics and politicians with scorn and loathing and will not even go to vote.

It is high time that our Canadian political procedure was reformed so that members can vote for principle instead of party. That is a job for all of us who really believe in Democracy.

Early Days In The Alberta Farm Movement

By Norman Priestley

Responding to the request of President Henry Young of the Farmers Union of Alberta, I have indulged in a few reminiscences of the earlier days of the farm movement for the Golden Jubilee edition of "The Organized Farmer". May I first congratulate the officials and membership of the F.U.A. on the attainment of the highest recorded membership in the direct membership organization. In the past half century the farm movement in Alberta, organized under different names, with some variation in constitution and methods of procedure has had a great influence on the life of the province and on areas beyond, in Canada and elsewhere, and in conjunction with similar movements in other provinces of Canada has undoubtedly done much to raise the status of men and women and their families who live on and work the land.

Others will write of recent events and with justifiable pride will point to the achievements of farm organizations in influencing the agricultural policy of governments, both provincial and federal, and will deal more particularly with the political and economic aspects of the fight of farm organizations for recognition of agriculture's proper place in the national economy. In this article, however, I wish to confine myself to a brief story of some of the things that happened locally in which I and my family have participated in the earlier years.

My father, James Priestley, his brothers Arthur and Ben and I, homesteaded near what is now Onoway some forty miles northwest of Edmonton in May, 1904. The area was fast being settled by people from Eastern Canada, United States, the British Isles, Scandinavia and other European countries. There were a few settlers who had squatted on the land before surveys were made and a sprinkling of Metis from the Cree tribes of the area. For some years there was good fellowship; we formed an agricultural society and held a fall fair and shortly after the amalgamation of the Canadian Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmers Association a local was organized under the name of United Farmers of Alberta.

The local was never large in numbers. Its meetings would perhaps not average an attendance of more than twenty. My father, whose three sons were all overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force of the First World War, had been president of the local for five years at the time of his death in 1927. During this early period some of the usual divisions of rural communities appeared. Missionaries from four historic branches of the Christian church came in and gathered their respective flocks around them. To the great credit of the U.F.A. local it became a common

meeting ground where nationality and creed were set aside.

One of the members of the local was stricken by cancer and died painfully and slowly in his own home. U.F.A. local membership was divided into groups of two, who sat up at nights and attended to his wants, thus enabling the mother of a large family to carry on the work of the house and that of a mixed farm. About the same time a system of co-operative shipping of livestock was undertaken and two members of the livestock committee accompanied railway cars of cattle or hogs, gathered from many farms, to the Edmonton stockyards or packing plants.

After five or six years at university and theological college and in the armed forces, I was ordained to the ministry of the Methodist Church and sent to Wainwright. There the farmers learned that I was a member of the U.F.A. The local was the most active men's organization of the district. Farmers were at that time considering taking political action. In 1921 they took it and elected J. Russell Love to represent the Wainwright constituency in the provincial legislature, and Henry Spencer to represent the Battle River riding in the House of Commons at Ottawa. The U.F.A. local had held its meetings in the small hall over the fire station. When the decision to enter politics was made, someone remembered that a by-law had been passed some years before denying the use of the town hall to political bodies. Other premises were found; these in turn became overcrowded. I remember that one of the conventions of the farm organization brought over three hundred delegates to the town; and what a job it was to find sleeping space for all of these people, who filled the theatre for two days. We billeted eight men on the floor of the doctor's office.

Prices of farm supplies had soared during the war and we made our first experiment in co-operation by bringing in two carloads of binder twine, bought from United Grain Growers Limited. Enthusiasm for co-operation grew and we bought an empty store on Main Street which was used for years for local meetings and then sold. There is now a thriving co-operative store in Wainwright which has succeeded those earlier efforts in co-operative buying.

Old timers will remember the severe winter of 1919-20. Snow was on the ground most of the time from October to May. The price of feed for cattle and horses rose steadily and the U.F.A. local was kept busy bringing in railroad cars of green feed and hay which had risen in price locally to as high as \$56.00 a ton. The price was stabilized by the im-

portation of timothy from Ontario by the Government at \$44.00 a ton. Our secretary, Francis Ebborn, lived nine miles south of town and had no telephone, necessitating many trips on horseback on my part as president of the local to arrange for some of these shipments.

It was at Coaldale, just east of Lethbridge, where we lived from 1922 to 1929, that we next saw the benefits to agriculture of organization on the local level. Membership there grew to as high as 125 men and women. We had an indefatigable secretary, John P. Thom. He buttonholed every one on the street in the village annually for payment of membership dues, and the farm organization grew steadily stronger.

Perhaps the most spectacular achievement on the part of the Coaldale local U.F.A. was the organization of a delegation to attend a sitting of the railway commission of the Dominion Government, presided over by the Honorable Frank Oliver in the middle twenties. The land at Coaldale is generally flat, making it very suitable for irrigation. The village grew on the south side of the C.P.R., and the railway company erected a water tower and depot at a small dugout "on the ditch" to the east of the depot on the north side of the track. Two passenger trains met at this siding at three o'clock each morning and for years, in the days before the roads were even gravelled, people wishing to travel to Lethbridge ten miles away or to the east went across the low land near the depot, frequently having to carry a pair of shoes under the arm and wade through the shallow water with rubber boots, which they left under the driveway of one of the elevators until their return. They then crossed the tracks, sometimes dodging between freight cars on the siding to do so. It was convenient for the railway company to have the depot at this point, as the engine could refill its boilers at the water tower while the train was at the platform.

We organized a cavalcade of automobiles to keep an appointment with the railway commission at the city hall in Lethbridge. We had a large map of the village of Coaldale and the railway right-of-way placed on the wall, showing that the only legal approach to the depot was by a circuitous route to the west of the village and north over the track to the road allowance. The railway commission was impressed and adjourned to Coaldale with us to inspect the situation for itself. The result of this action was that in a few months time the depot was moved further west to somewhat higher land near the road allowance, a point much more convenient to the travelling public.

Coaldale local U.F.A. was well organized. We had a telephone committee comprised of men living on each rural telephone to remind members of meetings. We had a livestock committee, and a social committee. After 1923 those who were members of the Alberta Wheat Pool were called together follow-

ing the meeting of the local, if any Wheat Pool business was to be transacted. We had made a thorough canvass of the district and signed up over 90% of the farmers, enabling the Pool to take over a 90,000 bushel elevator built a few years before by a local milling company which had solicited share capital from the farmers of the district.

The social life of the community was enriched by the farm organization. There was a fine co-operative spirit shown, for instance, in that every Thursday afternoon was set aside for one or other women's organization. The U.F.W.A. co-operated with the Women's Institute, the Women's Association of the United Church, and the Women's Missionary Society, each of these having their own Thursday afternoon. When there was a fifth Thursday, it was reserved for the Women's Christian Temperance Union. These women's organizations consulted with each other on dates of dinners, concerts and other coming events. It was in many respects an ideal rural community in which the farm locals were important factors.

Organization on a wide basis through which farmers can speak with one voice has been of great benefit to Canadian agriculture over the past half century, and what has been accomplished by the local groups at the points where farm people live, though not so spectacular, has been of incalculable value.

(FARM EXPERIENCES continued from Page 3)

plete list of past directors of the U.F.A. and the A.F.A. and the F.U.A. in order that in years to come their names will stir memories of association and work done. I treasure too the 1918 report which sets forth the first constitution of the Juniors, which is such an important part of our organization. No report of conventions of recent years have the detail of those early reports.

Over the years I have had the privilege of working with many people in many capacities within and outside of our farm organization. Appointments I could not possibly have felt qualified to fill had it not been that I have had the opportunity of association with great farm people not only in Alberta but from other parts of Canada and other parts of the world. But I can always speak as a practical farmer.

May I close with the words of John Ruskin: "Therefore when we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for the present — nor for the present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think as we lay stone on stone. For the time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them and that men will say as they look upon the labor and wrought substance from them, 'See what our fathers did for us'."

ALBERTA FARM LIFE IN 1905

H. Y.

In the short 50 years of their existence as provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan have progressed from the oxcart era to the age of the jet-propelled airplane. From a wilderness to one of the most highly productive areas in the world. During that time the cultivated area of Alberta increased from almost nothing to nearly 23,000,000 acres. Most of this progress came the hard way, with a prodigal expenditure of human labor. Younger people living under today's conditions find it hard to realize the conditions of 1905 and before.

The men and women who pioneered these Provinces came from many countries. They were in the main rugged, enterprising people, not afraid of hardships. Some of them were city people, unused to farm life, but even they were prepared to endure hardship and determined to make good in their new environment. And make good they did. The statistics of agricultural progress for those years show that.

Compared with the present, the living conditions of the 1905 era were primitive. In the bush areas most houses were made of logs. As the logs shrunk from year to year and the plastering became loose most of the houses were always cold in winter. Furniture was mostly home made and the hay or straw tick in place of a mattress was common. Kerosene lamps of various kinds supplied the only light usually a feeble glimmer something a little better than a glowworm. There were big lamps with round wicks which gave a fair light, but they were unpopular because they used too much kerosene. Water supplies came from shallow wells or were hauled or carried from streams. Some farm households were extremely short of water a lot of the time. In winter live-stock had to be watered on sloughs or ponds, and when these froze solid a new chore of melting snow to water them lasted till spring.

The average farm house of 1905 had little in the way of bathing facilities. The same galvanized or wooden tub which was used in washing clothes also doubled as the family bathtub. The bathroom was the kitchen in front of the stove. As there were no blinds the more fastidious people sometimes put newspapers over the windows, that is if they could find papers, for they were also scarce. Since hot water was always scarce and sometimes even cold water ditto, several people usually used the same bath water. This led to some dispute over the order of precedence, which counted even in the society of 1905. Under these conditions many men, and perhaps some women too, took the easy way out and lived happily with

a very minimum of bathing. Stories current in those days tell of men having their annual bath in a creek, and in so doing discovering extra layers of underwear which they had forgotten they had on since the previous fall.

The farm houses of 1905 contained few conveniences. The washboard was more prevalent than the washing machine, and as for power washers, they were still twenty or thirty years away. At that time the cream separator had not yet made its appearance on the average farm, so the farm wife had the extra chore of skimming the milk by hand and of course making butter for the family and for sale also if there was a surplus. Very few houses had sewing machines; in fact, hand work was the order of the day.

Heating the old log houses was always a problem. Where wood was available, that was the fuel, as it could be got without cost. Power saws were unknown, so all wood had to be cut by hand. Throughout the winter it was a never-ending struggle to keep up the wood supply for the stoves. No one who has not experienced it, can realize how fast a hand-sawn pile of wood can shrink during a few cold winter days. In the real cold weather the head of the house usually got up several times a night to fire up the heater or heaters. If he failed to do this, everything would be frozen by morning.

Vegetables kept in the house promptly froze, and if the root cellar was opened many times during the winter it sometimes froze solid before spring. If that happened the potatoes were a total loss as soon as they thawed out. As long as they were kept frozen they were still eatable if boiled in the frozen state, though they tasted quite sweet.

As for the farm operations proper, hand work was the order of the day. True, the binder, the mower, hayrake, and various horsedrawn machinery were in fairly common use. Crude threshing machinery was also available, but scarce. In clearing land, hand labor plus a little horse power, was all a farmer had. Some of the men who started out to clear 160 acres of trees and stumps got worn out themselves instead. It was indeed the heyday of the man with the strong back.

For a farm family, travel of any kind was difficult. Roads were merely trails through the bush following the high land around sloughs. In summer wagons were usually the only conveyance, horses or oxen the motive power. Usually there were no spring seats. It took all day to go a few miles to town and back, and was a real test of endurance to most women. Where the trails crossed soft spots mudholes speedily devel-

oped. When one trail across got impassable the traveller got out his axe and cut another one which was better for a time. Often you were faced with the choice of five or six routes across a water runway, and had to guess at the most passable one.

After the settlers began to fence up their land, gates of all kinds impeded the traffic still further. At one time the writer knew of 23 gates to open in one five mile trip to town.

And then the corduroys! When the road allowances were opened up the sloughs had to be corduroyed. For years these were used with little or no covering over the logs. Riding in a springless wagon across miles of corduroy is a bone-shaking experience. In those days winter eased the situation, as it meant smooth travelling in sleighs and the ability to cross lakes and sloughs in any direction. Winter improved social intercourse and also for many years was the only time when heavy loads could be moved.

Country stores had little choice of goods. Their stock was primitive: flour, sugar, salt, crackers, yeast cakes, kerosene, axle grease, bacon and some canned goods were the staple articles; then, of course, men's work clothes and tools of various kinds. As a concession to luxury they usually carried some horrible chocolate creams, and quantities of cheap, but almost uneatable, "mixed candy".

Actually there was little to induce a farm wife to endure the hardships of a trip to town except at rare intervals. As a result some women went rarely, while some only went once a year to do some Christmas shopping. Of course, there were some extra tough and hardy farm women who could stand riding in lumber wagons as well as the men. Some of these used to drive the team to town and do the shopping, while the old man grubbed some more stumps. Sometimes they did not even have a wagon box to go to town in. In one case I saw a farm woman use a boat thrown on a wagon running gear for a trip to town.

With the difficulties of travel in those days, it is not surprising that Eaton's catalog became the farm woman's standby. From its well illustrated pages, goods could be picked out and orders made up any time. It was a real fascinating pastime to decide what to send for. The only drawback was the money required.

Money was generally scarce on the farm in the 1905 era, particularly in the bush areas. Most of the settlers were just getting started and had little surplus produce of any kind. Actually any farmer who had managed to get some production going soon improved his position, for while farm produce was cheap, goods were cheap too. As an example of this in Eaton's catalog for 1905, men's wool underwear is priced at 60c to \$1.00 per garment. A Massey-Harris binder sold in the Wetaskiwin area for about

\$160.00. A mower cost \$55.00 and a hayrake \$35.00. Actually a bushel of wheat which was about 50c would buy more goods than the same bushel will today. However, most of the pioneers had little acreage in crop. The bush land was hard to clear with hand labor and years went by before most farmers had much grain to sell. Also the varieties of grain available in 1905 were unsuitable to this region and many crops were ruined by frost.

However, there was a lighter side to life in Alberta in 1905. It was an age of optimism. We were new people in a new country with a new century of opportunity before us. Everyone was sure that with hard work and perseverance their future was assured. The enterprising people who had come from many lands were ready to co-operate together in both work and play. The social life of the time was enriched by contacts between the many fine personalities from different lands who were sharing a common lot. As there was no outside entertainment the people of the community had to provide their own social life. People acted together in those days. They co-operated in work. They played together. Often those of many religions attended the same church services in the country school. At first the farm houses and later the school house became the center of social activity. The debates, the basket socials, the dances, plays and social evenings filled the winter evenings. In summer, picnics and ball games were the vogue. Through it all the local community gave almost 100% support to every effort.

Reading material was scarce. Books which had been brought from afar were passed around until some almost fell apart. The main literature in farm houses (apart from Eaton's catalog) was the "Family Herald", the "Nor West Farmer" or the "Farmer's Advocate". There were few local papers and no dailies. Many settlers still got their old home-town papers for a time, but in most cases they gradually lost interest in them as the ties of the old life lost their hold.

Altogether in spite of the drawbacks 1905 was a great time to be alive and in Alberta. Even the old men who had come here with little of their lives left, felt the boundless optimism of the period. Still hidden in the mists of the future were the two world wars and all the heartbreak and change which they would bring.

Life in those far-off days was primitive as compared with today. Yet it was on the whole, I think, a happier period than the present one. Life was simple, people's wants were few. No one had much, but they did not mind, because they were all sharing the same conditions and looking forward to better things. At that time no one dreamed that the atomic bomb would one day cast a doubt as to whether there is a future for the human race.

7 GOOD REASONS

Why You Should Deliver Your Grain To the U.G.G.

Farmer-owned Company

1 Nearly 50,000 farmers comprise the membership of the U.G.G. Farmers built this organization and farmers own it — "lock, stock, and barrel"!

Co-operative Policies

2 The U.G.G. strictly adheres to the co-operative principles of the world's original co-operative society . . . the "Rochdale Pioneers of England".

Operated For Farmers

3 As a farmer-owned co-operative the U.G.G. is operated for the sole benefit of farmers. The goals for which it constantly strives are . . . Better Farming and Better Farm Living

Low Cost Operation

4 The U.G.G.'s extensive elevator system . . . 693 country elevators plus huge terminals at Port Arthur and Vancouver . . . is equipped to handle grain at minimum cost.

Efficient Service

7 The U.G.G. has built its reputation on a policy of efficient service and fair treatment to all. The U.G.G. is now in its 50th year of service to farmers with a record of progressive achievement.

Volume Increases Savings

6 The more grain delivered to U.G.G. elevators, the lower is the cost of operation. Volume handling enables higher returns to members and customers.

You Share Earnings

5 Farmers who deliver grain to U.G.G. elevators share in patronage dividends paid by the Company. Total dividend payments—including share dividends—exceed \$14,000,000.

UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LIMITED

WHEAT POOL DELEGATES

The Alberta Wheat Pool is a co-operative grain handling organization owned by 50,000 Alberta farmers and governed by them through democratically elected officials. Every member should know his Pool representative and confer with him often. The following is a list of delegates and directors with their addresses:

Sub-Dist.	Delegate and Address	Sub-Dist.	Delegate and Address
101	Madill, Herbert A., Foremost	501	Fawcett, George G., Consort
102	Blackmer, Russell, Coutts	502	Smith, George F., Provost
103	Oliver, W. A., Warner	503	Hallett, John, Fleet
104	Redd, Paul H., Raymond	504	Flaade, Bennie Alfred, Rosyth
105	Lee, Lester W., Woolford	505	Weber, Ben S., Sedgewick
106	Davidson, Edwin N., Coaldale	506	Hayes, Charles P., Strome
107	Erdman, Ralph L., Barons	507	Vikse, O. M., Donalds
108	Claeys, Lucien, Vauxhall	508	Johnson, Arne, Camrose
109	Egan, Alfred, Bow Island	509	Hoar, Donald J., Ponoka
110	Montgomerie, T. S., Medicine Hat	510	Rasmuson, C. H., Gwynne
201	Pelletier, George E., Pincher Creek	601	Murray, John T., Chauvin
202	O'Neil, James J., Claresholm	602	Dobson, Parke, Paradise Valley
203	Hagerman, Thomas H., Parkland	603	Mathison, D. H., Dewberry
204	Morrison, W. S., High River	604	Jackson, James, Irma
205	Rudolph, Evenis, Dalemead	605	Bennett, George, Mannville
206	Rosenberger, O. K., Balzac	606	Kapicki, George, Andrew
207	Wood, Ray W., Carstairs	607	Moen, E. A., Tofield
208	Thompson, S. E., Carmangay	608	Ziegler, George, Vegreville
209	Brown, Sam. Jr., Blackie	609	Alton, Willmot, Fort Saskatchewan
210	Bertrand, V. J., Milo	610	Lamothe, A., St. Paul
301	Frey, Jake, Arneson	701	Boychuk, John W., Smoky Lake
302	Pearce, J. M., Carolside	702	Ewasiw, William, Egremont
303	Christensen, Ansgar, Tilley	703	Antonson, Carl, Pibroch
304	Petersen, T. A., Rosedale	704	Rigney, W. Frank, Gibbons
305	Wheatley, J. M. Chancellor	705	Ziegler, Alex, Winterburn
306	Cammaert, Emile, Rockyford	706	Paterson, Charles P., Mayerthorpe
307	Bates, Arthur C., Acme	707	Powell, Uri, Sexsmith
308	Offord, Robert D., Morrin	708	Hadland, Arthur R., Baldonnel, B.C.
309	Kaechele, David, Ghost Pine Creek	709	White, Frank, Spirit River
310	Taggart, H. L., Olds	710	McAuley, W. H., Fairview
401	Anderson, Ezekiel, Excel		
402	Massam, R. R., Sedalia		
403	Paetz, John T., Big Stone		
404	Macpherson, Allan J., Delia		
405	McBride, Hamilton J., Leo		
406	Judd, S. S., Stettler		
407	Domoney, Fred, Penhold		
408	Stone, John J., Alix		
409	Murray, James, Eckville		
410	Haarstad, Alfred B., Bentley		
		Dist.	Director and Address
		1	Malm, Nelson, Vauxhall
		2	Bell, R. C., Carstairs
		3	Plumer, Ben S., Bassano
		4	Blair, W. J., Naco
		5	Oberg, Gerald, Forestburg
		6	Harrold, Gordon, Lamont
		7	Mueller, W. R., Spirit River

All delegates hold office until August 15, 1956. These men govern the Wheat Pool in your name. Be sure that they are informed of your opinions and needs.

